Guide to the War Production Board Records

NMAH.AC.0341
Robert W. Ageton
1989
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: War Production Board Records
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0341
Date: 1943-1945
Extent: 2.5 Cubic feet (7 boxes)
Creator: United States. War Production Board.
Language: English
Summary: Records of the War Production Board concerning watches (including clocks and timers) so that both the civilian population and the military would be supplied with adequate and reliable timepieces.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance
This collection was donated to the NMAH’s Division of Mechanics sometime prior to 1974, and was transferred to the Archives Center shortly after it opened in 1983.

Processing Information
Collection processed by Robert Ageton, 1989

Preferred Citation
War Production Board Collection, 1943-1945, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions
Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.
Biographical / Historical

The War Production Board (WPB) was established in the Office for Emergency Management by an Executive order of January 16, 1942, which transferred to it the functions of the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board and the Office of Production Management (both established in 1941).

The function of the WPB was to exercise general direction over the war procurement and production programs of all federal departments and agencies. The WPB was terminated November 3, 1945.

The Consumers Durable Goods Division of the War Production Board was concerned with the regulation, production, and allocation of timepieces during World War II.

Source

Guide to the National Archives and Record Services, General Service Administration, Washington: 1974, PP. 687-689).

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of records of the War Production Board concerning watches (including clocks and timers) so that both the civilian and the military would be supplied with adequate and reliable time mechanisms as well as timers for military purposes. The activities ranged from control over aspects of production to allocation of material used in manufacturing along with references to foreign importation of watches and a technical survey of clock and watch factories in Europe.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into five series.

Series 1: Watches by Type

Series 2: Correspondence: Manufacturers

Series 3: Reports for Watch Industry

Series 4: War Production Board Records/Reports

Series 5: War production Board Requirements

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Clocks and watches
World War, 1939-1945
Types of Materials:
Correspondence -- 1940-1950
Reports -- 1940-1950
Statistics
Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1  NURSES WATCHES: Westclox Div. Form of Certificate for the Purchase of a Nurse Watch and listing of Certificates.

Box 1, Folder 2  Correspondence 1944 1945.

Box 1, Folder 3  New Haven Nurses Watches (Certificates) 1944

Box 1, Folder 4  BRAILLE WATCHES: Correspondence 1945.

Box 1, Folder 5  STOP WATCHES: 1941 1945 Ads.

Box 1, Folder 6  TIMERS: Ads Correspondence 1943-1945.

Box 1, Folder 7  Timers, Waltham WPB 541 Records (Also Longines): Tables on Timers showing factors involved and similar table for Imported Timers (Longines Wittnauer Watch Co.), 1944 and 1945.

Box 1, Folder 8  Jeweled Timers: Reports on Production. Correspondence 1944.

Box 1, Folder 9  Rhinelander. L.H. Correspondence February 1945

Box 1, Folder 10  MINERS WATCHES: Correspondence 1945.

Box 1, Folder 11  RAILROAD WATCHES: OFFICE OF DEFENSE TRANSPORTATION. Deliveries on railroad watches. Clock Manufacturers Assn. report on Trade Name by company. Correspondence.

Box 1, Folder 12  RAILROAD WATCHES: Reports Shipments by Elgin, Hamilton, and Waltham Correspondence 1945.

Box 1, Folder 13  Railroad Standard Watches: Correspondence 1944 1945.

Box 1, Folder 14  Reports Jeweled Railroad Watches: Correspondence with Elgin National Watch Company, June 17, 1942 November 4, 1944 on various aspects of production; and Correspondence with the Hamilton Watch Company, December 6, 1943 November 1, 1944. Other correspondence 1944 1945 (tables)

Box 1, Folder 15  Pawnbrokers: Correspondence circa 1945 re sale of railroad watches Loan and Pawnbroker companies

Box 1, Folder 16  HACK WATCHES 1945: Tables on American Watch Production Schedule June 28, 1944 and December 1944; Correspondence 1944 1945; and Tables of Jeweled Watch Industry Military Contract and Railroad Standard Schedules, 1945. In Dollars; Thousands of Units; and Comparison of Actual Shipments With Schedules First Quarter of 1945.
Box 1, Folder 17  NON JEWELED WATCHES 1945: Table of Alarm Clocks and Non Jeweled Watches dated June 18, 1945, Showing Manufacture by Labor Area, Number of Alarms, Watches, Etc.; Report on Non Jeweled Industry showing list of major companies in the Jeweled and Non Jeweled watch industry but not dated. Correspondence 1944-1945


Box 1, Folder 19  MILITARY: Maritime Commission War Shipping Adm. Correspondence 1944.

Box 1, Folder 20  Air Corps. Army Air Forces watch requirements and production. Correspondence 1945

Box 1, Folder 21  Navy General. Alarm Clocks Correspondence 1944 -1945.


Series II CORRESPONDENCE: MANUFACTURERS

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Box 2, Folder 3  ASSOCIATIONS REPORTS, etc.: Correspondence 1942 1944.

Box 2, Folder 4  ASSOCIATION, CLOCK MANUFACTURERS: Reference to the organization. Correspondence 1945.

Box 2, Folder 5  DATA: Data ranges from information on August 14, 1942 of the clock industry; April 2, 1943 memorandum on "Watch Situation in America"; and April 5, 1945 listing of Jeweled and Non Jeweled watch


Box 2, Folder 7  GIBRALTER MANUFACTURING CO.: Correspondence.

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Box 2, Folder 9  WILLIAM L. GILBERT CLOCK CORPORATION: Correspondence. 1943-1945.

Box 2, Folder 10  HAMMOND INSTRUMENT COMPANY: Correspondence 1943-1945.

Box 2, Folder 11  INGRAHAM COMPANY (Ink Note: Now McGraw Edison Co. as of 12/ 1 /67): Correspondence: 5/24/72 Note: The Ingraham Co. now Ingraham Industries,
Div. of McGraw Edison Co., Bristol, Conn.; added note that McGraw Edison Co., Laurenburg Division now Time

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PR3, List B. WPB Press Releases 1945 and Proposed Amendment to List B to Priorities Regulation 3

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Box 4, Folder 12
STATE DEPARTMENT: Correspondence about 100 alarm clocks for use by Foreign Service Personnel 1945.

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Box 5, Folder 22 ADAMS, STANLEY B.: Correspondence January and March 1945.

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Box 6, Folder 6  RECONVERSION PLAN: 17 Page report on PRODUCTS Jeweled Watches; Non Jeweled Watches (no date on report). WPB memo not dated on Check List To Be Used by WPP Personnel In Consulting With Industry on VE Day Cutbacks; separate reports: Imported Watches; Railroad Standard Watches; Non Jeweled Watch Industry; Clocks; no date on Suggested Outline for Report on Production and Allocation Orders

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Box 6, Folder 12  Reports Watch Production Schedules Jeweled Watch Industry: Tables of Government Orders and Delivery Schedules Dec. 1943 1944; Watch Production Schedule 1944; various watch production schedules including the year 1945.

Box 6, Folder 13  Reports Jeweled Watches: Undated report "Facts About The Jeweled Watch Industry of America" showing 1942 estimated USA manufacture and Swiss Imports and the material involved in maintaining the industry is practically inconsequential. Correspondence 1943 1945. Included in correspondence are data showing requirements for watches and employees.

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Box 6, Folder 1 GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Tables of Estimated number of Employee in Nonagricultural Establishments, by States 1939-1943, and Geographical Distribution
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